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Experiments made at San Francisco to test the efficiency of Danysz's virus in the destruction of rats.

Assistant Surgeon Donald H. Currie reports, March 31, as follows: February 2 I received two tubes of this virus from the Pasteur Vaccine Company. February 4 I mixed one tube with half a pound of rye bread, in accordance with the directions printed on the tube, and fed it to 9 rats. February 13 the rats began to sicken, so I separated them, putting them into different cages, each rat into one cage. February 15 all rats had sickened in series 1. In these cages I placed 22 other rats and named these latter series 2. On February 17 2 rats of series 1 died with typhimurium infection. From that date to February 28, inclusive, 8 of the original 9 rats died from the same cause, all of them in series 1. From February 20 to March 1 5 rats of series 2 died. During this time all of series 2 were more or less sick, but 17 recovered. On March 13 all the rats which had not died had made a complete recovery, and had gained in weight to that before infection. They were chloroformed on this date.

From the above it will be seen that in series 1, that is to say, those rats which actually ate the virus, there was a mortality of 88.7 per cent, which would compare favorably with any of the ordinary poisons, such as phosphorus, etc., without any danger of poisoning other animals and human beings, as is the case in inorganic and organic poisons. In series 2, however, the mortality, as will be seen, was only 22.7 per cent, and when it is taken into consideration that those rats were confined in close quarters, which would not be attainable under natural conditions, it is probable that there would be little or no transmission of the disease in wild rats when at large. An interesting thing in this connection was noted, namely, that the healthy rats when placed in with the infected ones avoided the latter as much as possible. The conclusions which this experiment would lead one to draw are that the virus is efficient when actually fed to the rats, as is done with other poisons, and that it has not the dangers which phosphorus and arsenic possess; but the claim that the disease would be transmitted from rat to rat is probably only admissible in the laboratory, and is therefore impracticable of application in the destruction of the rats of a city.

Investigation of smallpox in Lumpkin, Ga.

Surg. W. P. McIntosh reports from Mobile, Ala., April 7, as follows:

In obedience to telegraphic orders of the 4th and 5th instants to "proceed to Lumpkin, Georgia, as expert to decide diagnosis in suspected case of smallpox," I left Mobile at 12 o'clock (midnight) April 5, arriving at Lumpkin the following morning. I visited the office of the mayor, who immediately called a meeting of the board of health.

After ascertaining the condition of affairs, I visited, in company with the president of the board of health, Dr. Carter, several of the suspected cases. The first case I saw was a negro, suffering from a severe attack of semiconfluent smallpox, the eruption on face and parts of body being confluent, the conjunctiva badly affected, the patient suffering from secondary fever at time of visit. The wife of this man had just recovered from a mild attack, and two or three children were suffering from a mild form of the disease. In only one child was the eruption severe and umbilicated. There were a number of negroes in the yard and near the house, and no doubt many cases will follow. I saw only one case in a white man, and he was convalescent. I was informed that the wife of a prominent merchant was very ill with confluent smallpox, but I did not see her. The cases are either in the city limits or in suburbs.

After seeing the cases I again visited the mayor's office. The meeting of the board of health was reconvened and a meeting of the council also called. I was requested to make a short talk and did so, pointing out the necessity of immediate vaccination of everyone, also the advisability of opening a pesthouse or smallpox hospital, the isolation of the sick, and quarantine of the infected part of the town until all had been vaccinated and thoroughly disinfected with *moist* sulphur dioxide, scrubbing with bichloride solution, 1 to 800; whitewashing of cabins and houses, boiling in water of all clothes and bedclothes, emptying mattresses, burning the straw and boiling the ticking, all this to be followed by a thorough airing and exposing of articles and habitations to sunlight, the premises to be cleaned up generally and useless articles burned. The gentlemen present were very earnest in their support of these measures. It was decided to carry out compulsory vaccination and a sufficient supply of vaccine was ordered by telegraph. Steps were taken looking to the establishment of a smallpox hospital, the placing of an efficient guard around the infected area, and the thorough cleaning and disinfection of infected or suspected premises.

I was asked concerning the schools, in which a few cases had occurred about three weeks ago. I advised a proper vaccination of all pupils and the immediate isolation of infected children should infection occur, but I do not think it necessary to close the schools. The postmaster asked me regarding the mails, particularly regarding the writing of letters by persons suffering from the disease, and related the case of a man who had come into the office with the eruption all over his hands and had written a letter, used blotting pad, etc. I explained that all infected people would be quarantined. I also requested the health officers to disinfect all mail coming from infected places, and explained to the postmaster how to clip the ends of envelopes and drop in a few drops of formalin, then place the letters in a cigar box with sponge saturated with formalin, seal, and keep in a warm place twelve hours. The county judge and the ordinary were present a part of the time during the meeting and were very earnest in their participation in the proceedings and offers of assistance.

In the afternoon I visited the cases a second time in company with a number of the local physicians, pointing out the characteristics of the disease.

Statistical report of States and cities of the United States—Yearly and monthly.

CALIFORNIA—*Fresno.*—Month of March, 1903. Estimated population, 15,000. Total number of deaths 31, including scarlet fever 3, smallpox 1, and 3 from tuberculosis.

Stockton.—Month of March, 1903. Census population, 17,506. Total number of deaths 15, including 3 from tuberculosis.

COLORADO—*Denver.*—Month of February, 1903. Estimated population, 165,000. Total number of deaths 217, including diphtheria 4, enteric fever 3, measles 2, whooping cough 1, and 54 from phthisis pulmonalis.

CONNECTICUT—*New Haven.*—Month of September, 1902. Estimated population, 110,000. Total number of deaths 172, including enteric fever 5, whooping cough 6, and 9 from tuberculosis.

Month of October, 1902. Total number of deaths 158, including diphtheria 1, enteric fever 2, whooping cough 1, and 22 from tuberculosis.

Month of November, 1902. Total number of deaths 120, including diphtheria 1, enteric fever 5, whooping cough 1, and 27 from tuberculosis.

Month of December, 1902. Total number of deaths, 149, including diphtheria 2, enteric fever 2, whooping cough 1, and 14 from tuberculosis.

Month of January, 1903. Estimated propulation, 115,000. Total number of deaths, 157. including diphtheria 1, whooping cough 2, and 21 from tuberculosis.

Month of February, 1903. Total number of deaths, 152, including diphtheria 1, scarlet fever 3, and 13 from phthisis pulmonalis.

FLORIDA—*Tampa.*—Month of March, 1903. Estimated population, 20,000. Total number of deaths, 16, including enteric fever 1, scarlet fever 1, and 2 from tuberculosis.

MICHIGAN.—Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, for the week ended April 4, 1903, from 72 observers, indicate that inflammation of kidney, enteric fever, inflammation of bowels, whooping cough, and diphtheria were more prevalent, and scarlet fever was less prevalent than in the preceding week.